

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 L-03 H-02 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 USPS-02 IO-12 EUR-25

RSR-01 /120 W

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R 122156 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7175

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2066

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, ETEL, PN, SP

SUBJ: GOP PLANS TO LET AIR PANAMA CARRY ALL INTERNATIONAL MAIL

SUMMARY EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF PROPOSAL WHICH, IF IT BECOMES EFFECTIVE, WOULD PROVIDE AIR PANAMA EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO POINTS OUTSIDE PANAMA WHICH IT SERVICES. THIS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT PAN AM OPERATIONS BY TAKING AWAY A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ITS AIR MAIL BUSINESS. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED OF REPORT THAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE MADE DECISION ON APRIL 10 TO GIVE AIR PANAMA INTERNACIONAL S. A. EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS AS OF MAY 1 FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INTERNATIONAL MAIL FROM PANAMA TO MIAMI, GUATEMALA, MEXICO, BOGOTA, GUAYAQUIL AND LIMA. FROM JUNE 1, AIR PANAMA WOULD ALSO CARRY ALL MAIL FROM PANAMA TO NEW YORK. ACCORDING TO PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT WITH AIR PANAMA, THE AGREEMENT WILL BE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE FOR SUCCESSIVE PERIODS OF ONE YEAR DURATION UNTIL ONE OF THE PARTIES DESIRES TO TERMINATE IT.

2. SINCE PAN AMERICAN WOULD BE MOST ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY GOP DECISION REGARDING MIAL TRANSPORT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE LARGE VOLUME OF MAIL TRANSPORTED TO MIAMI, EMBOFFS DISCUSSED
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SUBJECT WITH LOCAL PAN AMERICAN MANAGER, DONALD GABLE, WHO SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH PLAN. GABLE SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT TO GIVE AIR PANAMA " EXCLUSIVE" RIGHTS TO CARRY MAIL ON ROUTES MENTIONED PARA (1) ABOVE GOES BEYOND THE " PREFERENCE" ACCORDED NATIONAL FLAG AIR CARRIERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE INDICATED HE WOULD SPEAK TO PRESIDENT LAKAS ABOUT IT, BUT DID NOT REQUEST ANY EMBASSY ASSISTANCE.

3. COMMENT POINT 10, ENTITLED " GOERNMENT ACTION," OF THE ANNEX TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA OVER THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PANAMANIAN CIVIL AVIATION PROVIDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR UTILIZATION OF THE SERVICES OF AIR PANAMA BY PUBLIC FUNCTIONARIES, AS WELL AS EXPEDITING MAIL AND OFFICIAL DISPATCHES AND GRANTING AIR PANAMA THE CONCESSION TO ESTABLISH HANDLING SERVICES AT THE AIRPORT. THIS AGREEMENT WAS CITED LAST OCTOBER IN A FORMAL PROTEST BY AIR PANAMA TO THE DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS (DAC) AGAINST PERMISSION FOR PAN AMERICAN TO ESTABLISH 747 JUMBO JET SERVICE ON ITS PANAMA-MIAMI ROUTE. SUBSEQUENTLY, A DELEGATION HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SPANISH AERONAUTICS, ARRIVED ON FEBRUARY 2 IN AN IBERIA (WHICH HAS A SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL INTEREST IN AIR PANAMA) PLANE OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS COMMERCIAL AIR RELATIONS AND TO PROGRAM AN INVESTMENT PLAN FOR THE YEAR 1973. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THEY OBTAINED AGREEMENT FOR THE MAIL SERVICE CONTRACT AT THAT TIME.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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